


Vysočina Region


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sites in the Vysočina Region





VYSOČINA Region

The unusually well-preserved landscape of the Vysočina Region, with its forest-covered hills and flower-filled fields, attracts lovers of tranquil family vacations; the local hiking and biking trails and other sporting facilities appeal to those who seek more active relaxation. The area also has a lot to offer to those who enjoy the arts and history. They can have a chance to visit modern galleries, listen to various types of music and attend sword fighting and theatrical performances held in centuries old, historic locations. The past centuries have left a number of castles, chateaus, abbeys and local architectural landmarks throughout the region. You will be able to admire the work of the architects and artists who have created such landmarks as the Telč Chateau, the Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk on Zelená Hora in Žďár nad Sázavou, the Basilica of St. Procopius and the Jewish Quarter in Třebíč – landmarks that are designated as World Cultural Heritage Sites by UNESCO.





Three UNESCO Landmarks in a Single Weekend

The Czech Republic currently has twelve landmarks that have been designated as UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites. Three of these landmarks are located in the Vysočina Region. They create an imaginary triangle with the distance between the individual sites being about 40 km – close enough to be able to comfortably visit all three sites within a single weekend. And that's not all – the other nine landmarks are all within a two-hour's drive.

The Historical Center of Telč

Rightfully considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the Czech Republic, the City of Telč is known for its typical triangularly-shaped central **square**, which is surrounded by period burgher's houses decorated with Renaissance gables and provided with arcades at street level. The overall look of the square is complemented by city gates, Baroque fountains and numerous sculptures. Along with the local chateau, the town square makes up an architectural landmark of exceptional value. The square itself became a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1992. The Telč Chateau was originally a Gothic castle. It was rebuilt in the second half of the 16th century into a grandiose Renaissance **chateau** and today is among the best-preserved Renaissance period architectural landmarks in the Czech Republic. One of the things that makes the chateau so valuable are its interior furnishings. The chateau offers its visitors two different tours looking at different eras. The first leads through the original Gothic area of the chateau, the Renaissance rooms with their period wood paneled ceilings and valuable furnishings. The second tour leads through the residential areas, which were used by the chateau's last owners until 1945. The interior furnishings of the chateau offer an important insight into the interiors occupied by the nobility of the period. All around the chateau is a natural park and it contains a notable neoclassical greenhouse. The southwestern wing houses a branch of the **Vysočina Museum** (tel.: +420 567 243 918), documenting the history of the town and the local crafts, including an exhibit of festive peasant costumes, painted folk furniture and paint-decorated glass. Among the most valuable pieces on exhibit are a model of the city dating back to 1895 and a mechanical crèche from the

Telč



mid-19th century. A permanent exhibition from the National Gallery in Prague, the **Jan Zrzavý Gallery** (tel.: +420 567 243 649), is located in the chateau's garden gallery. The exhibit presents an important part of the work created by this well-known Czech painter (1890 – 1977). The chateau's courtyard and historical rooms are a sought after location for various types of concert performances.

The Telč Chateau, Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce,
588 56 Telč, tel.: +420 567 243 821,
tour reservations: +420 567 243 943,
e-mail: zamek-telc@iol.cz, www.zamek-telc.cz.

**When touring the town square, don't forget to visit
the following landmarks:**

The local **Town Hall** was created by joining two Gothic-period buildings during a Renaissance-era reconstruction in 1574. The **Church of the Holy Spirit** was originally a Romanesque church that was part of the residence occupied by the royal administrator. Today, the building is being managed by the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren. The adjacent **Tower of the Holy Spirit** is the city's oldest preserved Late-Romanesque landmark. The structure was originally used as a guard tower for the town. The square-shaped tower is 49 meters high. It is open to the public and offers an unusual view out over the historical center of the town. Located inside of the tower are a permanent exhibition of paintings as well as an exhibition of archeological artifacts discovered during the reconstruction. The **Parish Church of St. James** was founded at the same time as the city and its current double-aisle plan dates back to the middle of the 15th century. The church's 60-meter tall **sightseeing tower** houses two rare historic bells. The tower's gallery offers breathtaking views of the town and the surrounding areas. The **Church of the Name of Jesus**, originally a Jesuit church, was completed in 1667. The **Hostel of St. Angels** was originally a malting house, which was later – after the arrival of the Jesuits – turned into a monastic music school. The building is currently being used as a conference center. The **Fire House** town gallery building has been reconstructed with its original design dating back to 1870. The gallery is used as a venue for temporary exhibits and art shows.

Tourist Information Center

Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce 10, 588 56 Telč
tel.: +420 567 112 407, fax: +420 567 112 403
e-mail: info@telc-etc.cz, www.telc-etc.cz, www.telc.eu



Accommodation:

- **Hotel Antoň**
Slavatovská 92
588 56 Telč
Tel.: +420 567 223 315
E-mail: office@hotel-anton.cz
www.hotel-anton.cz
- **Hotel Celerin**
Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce I/43
588 56 Telč
Tel.: +420 567 243 477
E-mail: office@hotelcelerin.cz
www.hotelcelerin.cz
- **Hotel Telč**
Na Můstku 37
588 56 Telč
Tel.: +420 567 243 109
E-mail: hotel.telc@tiscali.cz
www.hoteltelc.cz
- **Garni penzion Vacek**
Mlýnská 104
588 56 Telč
Tel.: +420 567 213 099
E-mail: info@penzionvacek.cz
www.penzionvacek.cz
- **Hotel Pangea**
Na Baště 450
588 56 Telč
Tel.: +420 567 213 122
E-mail: pangea@telc.cz
www.pangea.cz
- **Vzdělávací a konferenční centrum MŠMT**
Náměstí Jana Kypty 74
588 56 Telč
Tel.: +420 567 223 525
E-mail: konvikt@vkc-telc.cz
www.vkc-telc.cz





Regular Cultural Events:

<i>May</i>	May Market – crafts fair
<i>June</i>	Arts & Film – documentary art film festival
<i>July</i>	Franco-Czech Music Academy – music courses for students from European music schools European Gathering of Folk Ensembles – folk festival Hot-Air Balloons over Telč – a hot-air balloon flying event Traditional Fair – crafts market
<i>August</i>	Summer in Telč – folk festival, theaters, hootenanny, happenings, performances, exhibitions Telč Steam-Engine Summer – sightseeing rides on an historic steam train
<i>September</i>	St. Wenceslas Festival – theater performances, concerts, exhibitions
<i>December</i>	Christmas in Telč – folk music festival

Žďár nad Sázavou

Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk on Zelená Hora (The Green Hill) in Žďár nad Sázavou

The Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk was built based on a design by Jan Blažej Santini – Aichl, a famous Prague architect of the High Baroque period. Santini was commissioned to build the church by Václav Vejmluva, the abbot of the Žďár Monastery and a devoted fan of St. John of Nepomuk. Abbot Vejmluva decided to have the church built after the alleged discovery of Nepomuk's preserved tongue in his grave, which was located in Prague's St. Vitus Cathedral. The discovery took place as part of the saint's beatification process, which took place in April 1719. A hilltop overlooking the monastery was selected as the site for the construction of the new church. The church was consecrated in September 1722 and it became the first major shrine devoted to St. Jan of Nepomuk. The shrine is considered to be the high point of Santini's work and represents a timeless landmark, spared the conventional elements of the period's architecture. The floor plan of the church is in the shape of a five-pointed star, based on a legend claiming that a crown of five-stars had appeared at the location where Jan of Nepomuk died by drowning. The magical symbolism of the number 'five' is repeated throughout the building. The interior of the church contains five altars and



five aisles. The central altar is decorated with five stars and five angels. The courtyard of the pilgrimage site is lined by arcades with a set of five gates and chapels. The gates located in the middle of the individual arms are covered with cupola-shaped roofs and decorated with sculptures. Due to the uniqueness of its Bohemian Gothic-Baroque style and the unusual composition of the site, with its symbolic representation of the five-pointed star, the church became the first standalone building in the Czech Republic designated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1994.

Zelená Hora Visitors Center,
591 02 Žďár nad Sázavou 2,
tel.: +420 566 622 855, +420 724 663 716,
e-mail: zel.hora@brno.npu.cz, www.npu.cz

While staying in Žďár nad Sázavou, remember
to visit the following:

The local chateau complex is composed of an extensive array of
buildings that were part of the former Cistercian Monastery.



Accommodation:

• **Hotel Tálský mlýn**
591 02 Žďár nad Sázavou 2 - zámek
Tel.: +420 566 625 501
E-mail: cerum@cerum.cz
www.cerum.cz

• **Hotel Jehla**
Kovářova 4
591 01 Žďár nad Sázavou
Tel.: +420 566 624 146
E-mail: info@hoteljehla.cz
www.hoteljehla.cz

• **Hotel FIT**
Horní 30
591 01 Žďár nad Sázavou
Tel.: +420 566 623 508
E-mail: agro@zdar.agro-merina.cz
www.hotel-fit.unas.cz

• **Hotel Grunt**
Vysocká 62
591 02 Žďár nad Sázavou
Tel.: +420 566 623 407
E-mail: hotelgrunt@centrum.cz
http://hotelgrunt.webpark.cz

• **Hotel U Labutě**
Náměstí Republiky 70/6
591 01 Žďár nad Sázavou
Tel.: +420 566 622 949
E-mail: hotelulabute@cbox.cz
www.oxygen.cz/u-labute

• **Penzion V Kapli**
Santiniho 64
591 02 Žďár nad Sázavou
Tel.: +420 566 623 552, +420 777 235 502
E-mail: kaple@kaple.cz
www.kaple.cz

• **Penzion Na stezce**
Dvorská 21
591 02 Žďár nad Sázavou 2
Tel.: +420 566 623 395
E-mail: penzionnastezce@seznam.cz
www.sweb.cz/na-stezce

• **Penzion Santini**
Veselská 8/13
591 01 Žďár nad Sázavou
Tel.: +420 566 625 808
E-mail: penzionsantini@penzionsantini.cz
www.penzionsantini.cz





The complex is accessed across a Baroque bridge, decorated with eight sculptures of saints, built about 1760. The monastery itself was founded in 1252. In 1613, it closed down but was renovated in the 18th century, based on designs by the architect Santini. It was finally rebuilt into a large chateau complex after a fire in 1784. A permanent exhibit dedicated to Baroque art from the Žďár area and a collection of historic pianos are on view in what used to be the local convent. The building of the prelatore houses the **Museum of the Book** (tel.: +420 566 625 370). The collections that can be found in this museum are part of the library of the National

Museum in Prague and document the history of the European book culture and of book printing. The original Gothic **Convent Church of the Ascension of the Virgin Mary** dates back to the second-half of the 13th century. The church was later remodeled in a Baroque-Gothic style by the architect Santini and it offers visitors an exceptionally rich decorated interior. The ten-sided Well Chapel was also remodeled by Santini and even back as early as the 14th century, it contained a 35 meter deep well.

The early 17th century Renaissance **town hall**, with its later neoclassical façade, is used as a venue for exhibits and concerts. The **Parish Church of St. Procopius** – the original building dating back to the Gothic period – received its current look during a 16th century reconstruction. The most valuable artifact in the church is a Madonna with child from the mid-15th century. Located nearby is the Baroque period **Chapel of St. Barbara**, attributed to the architect Santini. A late-Gothic fortress, mentioned as early as the year 1300, has recently been reconstructed and is being used as the **Regional Museum** (tel.: +420 566 625 645, e-mail: zdenek.malek@zdarns.cz). The majestic Baroque period **Lower Cemetery**, dominated by a central statue of the Angel of the Last Judgment, is currently unoccupied. The cemetery was also designed by Santini. The **Black Plague Prayer Column** from 1706 is decorated with a symbol of the Holy Trinity at the top. Over 80 wooden sculptures, created during international sculpture symposiums, are located throughout the city enlivening its public areas.

Contact: Žďár nad Sázavou Chateau Visitors Center, 591 01 Žďár nad Sázavou, tel.: +420 566 629 152, fax: +420 566 629 331, e-mail: itc@zamekzdar.cz, www.zamekzdar.cz.

Regular Cultural Events:

<i>February</i>	Traditional Costume Ball
<i>April</i>	Passion Plays Pohádkový mlejnek – amateur theater performances
<i>June</i>	Concentus Moraviae – international music festival
<i>August</i>	Highland Jug – folk festival
<i>August – Sept.</i>	Rowanberry Festival – cultural festival

Tourist Information Center –

Santini Tour Travel Agency, Náměstí Republiky 24, 591 01 Žďár nad Sázavou, tel.: +420 566 628 539, fax: +420 566 625 808, e-mail: santini@santinitour.cz, www.zdarns.cz.



Třebíč

In July 2003, the Romanesque-Gothic Basilica of St. Procopius became the twelfth Czech landmark to be designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. The basilica received this important status along with the old Jewish quarter and cemetery in Třebíč.

Basilica of St. Procopius

Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the construction of an abbey started during the first-half of the 13th century as an addition to the local Benedictine Monastery, which dated back to 1101. The Roman-Gothic Basilica of St. Procopius is considered to be one of the gems of Medieval architecture. The structure suffered substantial damage during the 1468 siege of Třebíč by the Hungarian troops of Mathias Korvin and, for more than two centuries, the basilica was utilized for secular purposes, which included such uses as a stable, granary and even a warehouse for beer. After being renovated between 1725 – 1731, the structure was once again used for religious purposes and it was dedicated to St. Procopius. Among the basilica's most important elements are the crypt – with its original, more than seven-century old ceiling timbering – located between the stone ribs of the vaulting; the vaulting over the chancel with its stone cross vaults; the round rosette window in the eastern area of the apse; and, the northern entrance gate – superb stonework that was restored in 1862. The current look of the basilica's interiors is the work of Kamil Hilbert, who did the work from 1924 – 1935. Since 2002, the basilica has been designated a Czech National Cultural Landmark. Located in the adjacent former Benedictine Monastery, is the West Moravian Museum. A professional tour guide can be booked for a visit to the basilica.



Basilica Information and Tourist Center,
Zámek 1, 674 01 Třebíč, tel.: +420 568 610 022, +420 777 746 982,
e-mail: infobazilika@kviztrebic.cz,
www.kviztrebic.cz, www.trebic.cz/unesco.



The Old Jewish Quarter

As long ago as the Middle Ages, the area on the left bank of the Jihlava River had been settled primarily by a population from the Jewish faith. The gradual population increases in this confined location, bordered by the river on one side and by steep rocky cliffs on the other, gave rise to the birth of a singular community, densely laid out with intertwining narrow twisty streets and houses built one-on-top-of-the-other, dark corners, vaulted passageways, stairways carved into the rock, tiny romantic squares along with other typical features of Jewish architecture. The gradual deterioration of the community over the past century at first led to the idea of reclaiming (clearing) what had become a slum-type city quarter. But, in the early 1990's, the opinion as to the historical value of the area changed radically; and, since then, the old Jewish quarter has slowly been getting back its original look, filled with new life. In addition to its comeback as a residential



area, the quarter has seen the arrival of numerous restaurants, taverns, art galleries and artist studios and even tourist accommodations. The highlights of the Jewish quarter are its two synagogues. The **Front Synagogue** is presently being used as a chapel by the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. This synagogue was built in the mid-17th century, it was given its Gothic-Revival look two hundred years later. The **Rear Synagogue** was built at the turn of the 17th into the 18th century in a Baroque style. Some of the features that have been restored include the wall paintings with their ornamental and floral motifs and the synagogue now houses

liturgical Hebrew texts dating back to 1706-1707. After reconstruction, the synagogue reopened in 1997 and it is currently hosts numerous concerts and exhibitions. Its women's gallery houses a permanent exhibit on Jewish culture and holds a number of valuable items that are representative of the civil and religious lives of the no-longer existent local Jewish community. The Jewish quarter has its own 'history trail' for those who wish to explore it on their own and also offers the services of regular tour guides.

The Rear Synagogue Information and Tourist Center, Subakova 1/44, 674 01 Třebíč,
tel: +420 568 823 005, +420 568 610 023,
e-mail: infosynagoga@kviztrebic.cz,
www.kviztrebic.cz.

The Jewish Cemetery

The old Jewish cemetery, which had been located near the Benedictine Monastery since the early Middle Ages, was destroyed during the 1468 siege of the monastery by Mathias Korvin. In the 17th century, the cemetery was moved to a new location – a verdant park on the slopes of Hrádec Hill. The cemetery's nearly 3,000 gravestones, of which the oldest dates back to 1631, are living proof of the centuries-long presence of a Jewish community in Třebíč. The unforgettable mystic atmosphere of the site will impress any visitor. Part of the cemetery is a ceremonial hall, which dates back to 1903 and contains a uniquely preserved interior where traditional Jewish burial services can still be held. The cemetery is one of the best-preserved and best-maintained Jewish cemeteries in the Czech Republic and, in 2002, the site was made a national cultural landmark.

Other landmarks in Třebíč:

The **Wallenstein Chateau** was rebuilt in the 16th century around an old Benedictine Monastery. Standing on a shallow sloping site, the chateau presents a typical picture of Třebíč, along with the adjacent basilica. In reality, the



chateau is a monastic complex with three wings, surrounded by a lush park. The park's northern boundary used to be the location of the original Třebíč Fortress. Today, the chateau is the home of the **Vysočina Museum in Třebíč** (tel./fax: +420 568 840 518, e-mail: muzeum@zamek-trebic.cz, <http://zamek-trebic.cz>). Its exhibits offer an insight into the natural wonders abounding outside the city, the historical development of its settlement and its craft traditions. Included are crèches, pipes for smoking and the semi-precious stone – Moldavites. The chateau's stone hall, richly embellished with armorial decorations, is used as a site for concerts, lectures and other cultural events. The **Church of**



St. Martin was mostly likely built during the second-half of the 13th century. The church has undergone several reconstructions since it was built and its majestic, 72-meter tall tower is the town's dominant feature. Today, the tower is connected to the church. Its origins date back to the mid-13th century and its original purpose was to serve as part of the town's fortifications. The tower's gallery, located at a height of 35 meters, offers an excellent vantage point from which to look out over the entire city. According to available information, the size of the tower's clock (the dial has a diameter of 5.5 meters, the numerals are 60 centimeters tall) makes it the largest tower clock on the European continent. The **Temple of the Transformation of the Lord**, which is part of the local Capuchin Monastery, dates back to 1693. The orthodox **Church of Sts. Wenceslas and Ludmila** was built between 1939-1940. Its cupola is covered with leaves made of real gold. The exceptionally large **Charles Square** (22,000 square meters) stands witness to the town's importance at the time of its establishment. Its most important feature is the Renaissance period, sgraffito-decorated buildings.

Regular Cultural Events:

<i>March</i>	Spring – a show featuring various puppeteer groups
<i>May</i>	Theatrical Třebíč – amateur theater performances Museum Fair
<i>June</i>	Zámostí – a cultural and music festival
<i>July</i>	Zvonek – a festival of ethnic music
<i>August</i>	Shamaim – a festival of Jewish culture Wallenstein Fair – historical town fair
<i>September</i>	Potato Harvest Festival – folk festival
<i>October</i>	Puffing in Třebíč – a slow pipe-smoking contest

Malovaný Dům Information and Tourist Center,

Karlovo náměstí 53, 674 01 Třebíč,
tel.: +420 568 847 070, fax: +420 568 840 459,
e-mail: info@kviztrebic.cz, www.kviztrebic.cz.



Accommodation

• Hotel Grand

Karlovo náměstí 133/5
674 01 Třebíč
Tel.: +420 568 848 560
E-mail: info@grand-hotel.cz
www.grand-hotel.cz

• Hotel Zlatý kříž

Karlovo náměstí 19/13
674 01 Třebíč
Tel.: +420 568 821 157
E-mail: h.zlatykriz@seznam.cz
www.pumax.cz

• Hotel Atom

Velkomeziříčská 45
674 01 Třebíč
Tel.: +420 568 820 791
E-mail: hotelatom_trebic@seznam.cz
www.sweb.cz/hotelatom_trebic

• Hotel Alfa

Znojemská 1235
674 01 Třebíč
Tel.: +420 568 842 559
E-mail: recepce@hotel-alfa.cz
www.hote-lalfa.cz

• Hotel Winkler

V.Nezvala 8
674 01 Třebíč
Tel.: +420 568 841 506
E-mail: recepce@hotel-winkler.cz
www.hotel-winkler.cz

• Penzion U Synagogy

Subakova 43/3
674 01 Třebíč
Tel.: +420 568 823 005, +420 568 610 023
E-mail: infosynagoga@kviztrebic.cz
www.kviztrebic.cz

• Travellers' hostel & hotel

Žerotínovo náměstí 19
674 01 Třebíč
Tel.: +420 568 422 594
E-mail: trebic@travellers.cz
www.travellers.cz



Photo:

archives of Telč, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou

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